

through the years for being weary now—though now is the time for that second wind, and the renewed spirit that leads to victory. And now is the time to train and send forth that spiritual heir, that younger man, to go out with the same old courage and perhaps newer tactics into today's front line trenches.

We come to these conferences and have the joy and inspiration of meeting one another, but how many of us go back to our own circles and *really work*?

We are at a vital point now—civilization is standing with her back against the wall. It is for us who know the way to fight as we have never fought before, and whether we decide at this convention what is the Common Denominator—we can each and all return to our homes with renewed enthusiasm and strength for our own particular solo work. For my part I have joined the League for Political Action. I think Single Taxers have flocked alone too long, that much can be gained and little lost if we trail along with those who are going even part of the way in our direction.

Henry George did not see eye to eye with Grover Cleveland, but he campaigned with him because of his free trade leanings. Henry George did not believe in free silver, but he worked for Bryan because of his Jeffersonian tendencies. But in neither of these campaigns did he cease to preach the full philosophy.

So I wish that in a body we could join the League for Independent Political Action even though we do not approve of all the planks in their platform. We could make ourselves felt, could leaven the lump, could prove that we are again to be reckoned with, that we are a living, vibrant force.

Single Taxers seem always to have no money, and what little they have must be given to keep going the activities already started, our magazines, this foundation, our leagues, and above all that splendid work, the Henry George School. That is more important even than my own particular pet, the Essay Contest, which demands not only money but a sympathetic and understanding professor.

Whenever I get to a place of black despondency and walk the floor weeping because we have no money to carry on, because there is no leader with the flaming personality of a Henry George, I have to re-strengthen myself with the memory of his words that "though defeated and defeated we would still go on." I have to give myself new hope chronicled so many times in his experience where having worked his very hardest he came to a blank wall, when lo, a door had opened!

For us this is a glorious gamble. One of us here in this room may sow the seed that is to grow to a mighty tree.

A great adventure, where one of us today may light the very spark that shall ignite, not the conflagration that will destroy civilization, but a light that shall illumine the world!

The Road to National Recovery

THOMAS RHODUS AT HENRY GEORGE CONGRESS

THE prosperity of this country depends upon the purchasing power of the consumer; and more purchasing power is the need of the great majority. Some say, "Increase wages and you increase purchasing power." But increased wages, unless we adopt the right tax system, will increase the cost of production and increase prices; the high prices will off-set the high wages, as high wages will buy no more at high prices than low wages at low prices; so there is no increase in purchasing power if high wages are off-set by high prices.

To solve this problem, we must follow truth and commonsense, step by step. If the price of human effort is low and the price of things is high, the great mass of consumers will have little purchasing power. It is plain, therefore, that purchasing power depends upon and is distributed through relative prices, and that, to solve this problem, we must know how to increase wages and salaries, and the earnings of every useful business man, without increasing prices of other things.

Now it happens that a simple change from the wrong tax system to the right tax system will change the prices of everything; it will increase the price of human effort; but it will reduce the price of everything else. Under the right tax system there will be only one tax; this tax is therefore called the Single Tax. This one tax will tax land only; all improvements will be exempt. By means of this one tax, the ground rent will be taken for all and for public use; other taxes will then be unnecessary and abolished. This will take taxes out of prices.

The right system will increase wages but it will reduce rent and interest and take taxes out of prices; in this way it will take out of prices more than is put in by the higher wages; and while wages will be higher, the price of everything will be lower.

The right tax system will also make employment available to every idle person by increasing production and consumption of goods and by making access to the natural resources free to capital and labor. This will also increase wages and lower rents. Under the wrong tax system, labor-saving inventions compete with the workers and take the jobs, as machines work cheaper than men. This lessens wages and increases ground rent; but under the right tax system labor-saving inventions will be called wealth-producing inventions and will shorten the hours of work, increase wages, make prices lower and increase the purchasing power of human effort. Under these conditions, with everybody employed and working, the total production of wealth and the total purchasing power of the nation will increase enormously; and, with high wages and low prices, this enormous wealth would be justly distributed and the problem would be solved; prosperity would reach everybody and every business.

This is the great secret of prosperity and of the square deal for everybody in the production and distribution of the wealth that is daily being produced; no one can imagine the far reaching prosperity that will result from the right tax system. "Great Oaks from little acorns grow" and mighty forces may be set in motion by one push of an electric button; and the whole economic system governing employment and the distribution of the wealth that is daily being produced may be revolutionized by such an apparently little insignificant thing as a change from the wrong system to the right system of taxation.

Henry George School of Social Science

JOSEPH DANA MILLER

AT THE HENRY GEORGE CONGRESS

WHILE this Henry George Congress is meeting here in Chicago an event is taking place in New York that more than any other thing that is going on in our movement deserves our attention and that more than any other thing should receive our whole-hearted support.

At this very time that we are meeting here, classes in fundamental economics and social science—classes in the Philosophy of Henry George—are being attended by hundreds of teachers, college students and others who, before they are through with these courses will be earnest, intelligent and effective followers of Henry George. Nor will it be long before ministers of all denominations will be attending these courses. But for the sudden passing on of one important man in the theological world this too would now have been a consummation.

Never in the Henry George movement has such a thing been done. Never in the history of the movement has anything of a permanent nature been attempted that contained the promising possibilities of the Henry George School of Social Science.

To those who know the man, Oscar Geiger, and the spirit behind this school, to those who have witnessed this work and heard the testimony of his students, there are no heights that the school may not reach.

Already the cultural center of the movement, the school is destined to become the source of undreamed numbers of new converts (followers and leaders) from the highest calibre of our citizenry—the teachers and spiritual leaders of the people.

Thus, the dream of one man has become the hope of a movement!

I say the dream of one man, but it was more than a dream. Though a dream at first (and he dreamt that dream many years) it became a conviction, and a faith that had never wavered finally transformed the dream into a reality, the conviction into deeds.

In the midst of depression, of economic insecurity, of unemployment, hard times and consequent deepening poverty this man still saw the light of promise in Truth, in Justice and in the Eternal Rightness of Law and Order. To him the stars in their courses still fight against Sisera.

When he disclosed his purpose to me to start a school and to devote to it his entire time and his remaining allotment of life, I told him he was crazy; that conditions in these hard times were all against him and against the success of such a venture; that nobody had any money, and that those who had it once had now lost it.

Our words had no effect. The more we argued, the more sure he seemed to be of the rightness of his purpose and of the certainty of its success, because, he argued, this is exactly the time when the school is needed most. "Where and from whom, do you expect to get the money for such an ambitious scheme?" I asked him. "I don't know," he replied, "but I do know that there is intent and purpose in Nature, that what we mean to do is in harmony and accord with such intent and purpose, and that as long as we do our part unselfishly, intelligently and persistently, the forces behind creation will do theirs. I know that doors will open; that the way will be shown and that help will come, even if I don't know from where."

Against such faith, I felt there was no arguing and so I offered to do my part. His wife has more than nobly (almost superhumanly) done hers. For besides her housework she does all the secretarial work of the school.

I confess I did not know at the time he spoke what he meant by doors opening and the way being shown, but I confess equally that I do know now and that I have seen the doors open and the way being shown.

He paid the money needed for a meeting place, for printing and mailing notices, for advertisements in college papers and for the first general announcements, out of an all too meagre residue of a life's savings; out of which all has come his own and his wife's upkeep during these two years of work and heroic striving.

Today the Henry George School of Social Science is a state-chartered institution; has its own headquarters; its own classrooms; its own library and reading room; space for office work; large handsome signs on building and doors, and all this in one of the best and most accessible locations in the City of New York.

True this was all made possible by one man "sent from Heaven"—*one of the doors that opened*. He insists on remaining unknown (he is a new convert) but he cannot escape the ineffable happiness of knowing that he helped to show the way.

Seeing all this; indeed being a party to it from the beginning, I have become convinced there is no greater power than faith combined with knowledge of Creative Law and an indefatigable will and persistence to be in harmony with that Law and to do its bidding. This is